

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 2-5, 10-11 and 23-24 are amended to change their dependency and claims 1, 20-21 and 25 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added. Claims 7, 8, 13 and 16-19 are allowed. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-13, 16-21 and 23-25 will remain pending in the patent application.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7-8, 13 and 16-19 are allowed.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout the prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 10-12, 20, 21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang *et al.* (hereinafter "Chang") (U.S. Patent No. 6,943,068). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 20-21 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Claims 2-5 and 23-24 have been amended to change their dependency from claim 1 to claim 13, which is allowed. Therefore, claims 2-5 and 23-24, as amended, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 13.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to change their dependency from claim 1 to claim 7, which is allowed. Therefore, claims 10 and 11, as amended, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 7. Further, claim 12 is patentable over the cited portions of Chang at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 11 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 10-12, 20, 21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang are respectfully requested.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Ahmed *et al.* (hereinafter "Ahmed") (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0056304). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 23 has been amended to change its dependency from claim 1 to claim 13, which is allowed. Therefore, claim 23, as amended, is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 13.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Ahmed are respectfully requested.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Kazama *et al.* (hereinafter "Kazama") (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0034872). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 23 has been amended to change its dependency from claim 1 to claim 13, which is allowed. Therefore, claim 23, as amended, is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 13.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Kazama are respectfully requested.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Ahmed. Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Chang in view of Kazama.

Claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejections of this claim.

The rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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